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Maysan Electrical Distribution Network Upgraded

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MAYSAN, Iraq - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Gulf Region South (GRS) district has been upgrading the electrical distribution networks in the Maysan Province, building a 400-kilovolt electrical substation project to enhance electricity production in southern Iraq.

According to Resident Engineer Maj. Stephen Herda, Basrah Area Officer, Gulf Region South, the $36 million project is one of the hallmark projects built in Maysan Province to provide a reliable source of power to homes and businesses.

"The purpose of the project is to take the pressure off of the existing over burdened substations and increase distribution within the region and give the local electrical distribution department the opportunity to supply more electricity to the people of Maysan," said Herda.

Iraqi workers prepare to install the main switchgears in Gulf Region South districts Maysan 400 kV substation project to provide a more stable electrical system to the Maysan Province. (USACE photo by Al Bahrani)

Iraqi workers prepare to set a concrete cable trench on the Gulf Region South Maysan 400kV substation project site. (USACE photo by Al Bahrani)

The project will ensure stable electrical supply within the Maysan Province as the substation reduces the more dangerous high voltage electricity to a level where it can be safely distributed throughout the province, according to Herda.

"This project will significantly enhance the strength and reliability of the power grid for Maysan Province. It means that once there is sufficient electric generation capacity, this substation will allow the people of Maysan to have good distribution network, for that electrical power to

Iraqi project engineers communication with workers at the Maysan 400kV substation which will upgrade the area's electrical distribution network. (USACE photo by Al Bahrani)

reach their homes and businesses," said a Basrah Area Office Iraqi engineer.

"The equipment used in the facility includes 63 megavolt amps transformers, a control room, a high voltage switch gears and a guard house," he said.

"The function of the 400kV substation is to step down the electrical voltage from 400kV to 133 kV for distribution out to other substations and to further step down to the 133kV to 33/11kV for local use. The electrical voltage is stepped down through the use of transformers," explained Herda.

"As the electrical systems are not stable in Maysan, this project is designed and constructed to reduce and eliminate shutdowns, add power to the electrical grid and sustain the national system," said Thomas Eidson, Chief of Engineering and Construction, GRS.

Herda described the project as the only project of this magnitude that GRS is working on in Maysan Province.

"There are seven other similar projects. Six of these are 133kV substations and the other one is 33/11kV substation. These smaller projects are no less important when you consider that the electric grid needs to have all these components in order to function properly. Once functioning, the citizens of Maysan Province will have a strong, reliable power grid that should experience fewer problems," Eidson said.

"They will serve more than 785,000 residents and provide the principle power to the southern and central part of the province," he said.

The Gulf Region South district Maysan 400kV substation project will significantly enhance the strength and reliability of the power grid in the Maysan Province. (USACE photo by Al Bahrani)

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